

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 03127 110756Z

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FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6707

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 3127

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, YE

SUBJECT: VISIT TO US OF MINISTER OF STATE AHMAD ABDU SAID

1. DURING NOVEMBER 9 MEETING, MINISTER OF STATE AHMAD ABDU SAID INFORMED ME THAT HE INTENDS TO PROCEED TO NEW YORK CITY ON FAMILY BUSINESS SOME TIME IN MID-NOVEMBER, EXPECTING TO STAY THERE UNTIL FIRST OF DECEMBER. SAID STATED THAT PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI HAS ASKED HIM TO COME TO WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER AND CALL ON STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO HAVE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION AS WELL AS TO BRIEF THE AMERICAN SIDE ON CURRENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN YEMEN. SAID SAID THAT HE SPECIFICALLY WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS JOSEPH SISCO WHOM HE MET DURING THE UNDER SECRETARY'S VISIT TO YEMEN SEVERAL YEARS AGO. IN ADDITION HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE OF MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR NEA ALFRED ATHERTON. IN THIS REGARD HE NOTED THAT I EXPECTED TO BE IN WASHINGTON ABOUT THAT TIME ON CONSULTATIONS AND ASKED MY ASSISTANCE IN SETTING UP THESE MEETINGS. I TOLD HIM I WOULD DO THE BEST I COULD.

2. COMMENT: I REALIZE DEMANDS ON SCHEDULES OF BOTH SECRETARIES ARE HEAVY BUT I HOPE THESE MEETINGS CAN BE ARRANGED. SAID IS AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN THE AL-HAMDI
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REGIME WITH DAILY AND CONSTANT ACCESS TO THE PRESIDENT.

I BELIEVE THESE MEETINGS WOULD FURTHER UNDERSCORE TO
AL-HAMDI OUR SUPPORT FOR HIS EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE AND
STABILIZE YEMEN AS WELL AS AFFORD THE DEPARTMENT AN
OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH A KEY YEMENI
OFFICIAL.
SCOTES

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